**In the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Please cancel claim 19 and the previously withdrawn claims 23-24 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1 and 13 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): An isolated marine actinomycete having an obligate requirement of sodium for growth, wherein the marine actinomycete is a strain of *Salinospora* comprising the following signature nucleotides as numbered by using the Ribosomal Database Project alignment with a sequence of *E. coli* 16S rRNA nucleotides 27-1492: adenosine at position 207 of a 16S rRNA, cytidine at position 366 of the 16S rRNA, uridine at position 467 of the 16S rRNA, and uridine at position 468 of the 16S rRNA~~, wherein the position numbers 207, 366, 467, and 468 correspond to the *E. coli* numbering system~~.

2-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended): The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, further comprising guanidine at position 1456 of the 16S rRNA~~, wherein the position number 1456 corresponds to the *E. coli* numbering system~~ as numbered by using the Ribosomal Database Project alignment with a sequence of *E. coli* 16S rRNA nucleotides 27-1492.

14. (Previously Presented): The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

15. (Previously Presented): The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

16. (Previously Presented): The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

17. (Previously Presented): The isolated marine actinomycete of claim 1, wherein the marine actinomycete is obtained from sediment.

18. (Previously Presented): A method for producing a biomolecule, comprising

culturing a marine actinomycete of claim 1 in a growth media, wherein the biomolecule is produced by the marine actinomycete;

collecting the marine actinomycete or the growth media containing the biomolecule; and

extracting the biomolecule from the marine actinomycete or the growth media, thereby producing the biomolecule.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the growth media comprises sodium at a concentration of 450 mM.

21-24. (Canceled).